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Flood Repair IND CLE ELUM PROJECTS PROJECTS

PROPOSED ACTIONS FOR THE NACHES AND CLE ELUM RANGER DISTRICTS 2013 FLOOD REPAIR PROJECTS

In May 2011, the Naches and Cle Elum Ranger Districts experienced a 100-year flood impacting 40 roads, multiple campgrounds, and several other recreational areas. In June 2011, the Okanogan-Wenatchee South Engineering Zone documented the extent of the damage and was granted Federal Lands Highway funding for emergency relief.

Currently, the planning team has completed the analysis for four flood repair projects including: Forest System Road (FSR) 3100 mile post 0.9 - 2.2, FSR 3100 mile post 10.4, FSR 1808 mile post 4.2, and FSR 1601 mile post 0.3. All four of these projects are scheduled to be constructed July-September of 2012.

This brochure outlines the proposed actions for the five 2013 flood repair projects. The damaged sites are broken up into the following analysis groups: FSR 1501, FSR 1700, FSR 1901, FSR 3300, FSR 4517-117. All projects will undergo an environmental analysis consistent with the

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest will accomplish multi-use objectives by working with the Yakama Nation, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife, WA Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife. National Marine Fisheries Service, and several other vested parties. At this time, the team is asking for public comment and feedback. Please review the proposed actions and provide us with questions, comments, and concerns.



Is this a road or a stream? This is FSR 1708 in May 2011. In some places, the stream completely overtook the road.



Naches Ranger District 10237 U.S. Highway 12 Naches, WA 98937 (509) 653-1401 Cle Elum Ranger District 803 W. 2nd Street Cle Elum, WA 98922 (509) 852-1100 Okanogan Wenatchee National Forest Supervisor's Office 215 Melody Lane Wenatchee, WA 98801 (509) 664-9200



Project Objectives

The objectives of the 2013 Flood Repair Projects are:

- Address roads with serious damage caused by a natural disaster or catastrophic failure.
- Reduce road and stream interactions.
- Maintain aquatic and wildlife habitat standards in respect to the Forest Plan and national direction.





Federal Highway Standards and Forest Service Roads



Did you know that all Forest Service Roads must meet Federal Highway Standards? Although Forest System Roads (FSRs) are managed at different levels, every road must meet basic Federal Highway Standards. For example, every road and crossing must be able to handle the weight and turning radius of a **loaded logging truck**. Even if a FSR is not paved, the river and stream crossing must be strong enough to handle the weight of these heavy vehicles. For more information on Federal Highway Standards visit: https://fhwapap04.fhwa.dot.gov/nhswp/.

Join the project mailing list to get updates on the status of the 2013 Flood Repair
Projects.

Please contact Michelle King at 509-653-1420;
mdking02@fs.fed.us

We thank those individuals who choose to be contacted via email as it helps the Naches Ranger District save paper and money.

Project Consistency and Environmental Protection

The objectives of the proposed 2013 Flood Repair Projects are consistent with recommendations present in relevant national and regional direction. Projects on the Forest will follow the direction for land and habitat management as per the **Wenatchee National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan** (1990) as amended by the **Northwest Forest Plan** Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species within the Range of the Northern Spotted owl (1994). By applying site specific road designs and implementing appropriate maintenance requirements, all projects on the Forest will be consistent with the **Aquatic Conservation Strategy** objectives.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), each project is classified as an Environmental Assessment (EA) or a Categorical Exclusion (CE). Each EA will discuss the project's purpose and need, affected environment, potential alternatives, environmental and social effects, and public involvement. As part of the Endangered Species Act (1973) consultation process, a Biological Evaluation will be completed for each project. Each project will comply with the Pacific Northwest Region Invasive Plant Program Record of Decision (2005), the Clean Water Act (1972), the Clean Air Act (1963), Executive Order 11988 for Floodplain Management, Executive Order 11990 for Wetland Protection, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

Although the Okanogan-Wenatchee is enacting public scoping for all of the 2013 proposed projects at the same time, each of the five projects will be individually analyzed and will have separate project files. The Potential Repair Options at each site represent possible actions the planning team has began to review. Your knowledge of the area and feedback could lead to the development of a new potential repair. Scoping is an important time for the planning team to gather additional information while beginning the environmental analysis.

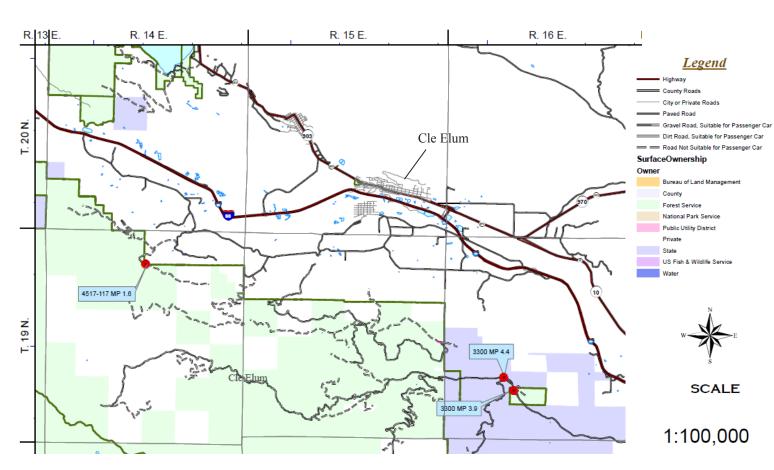


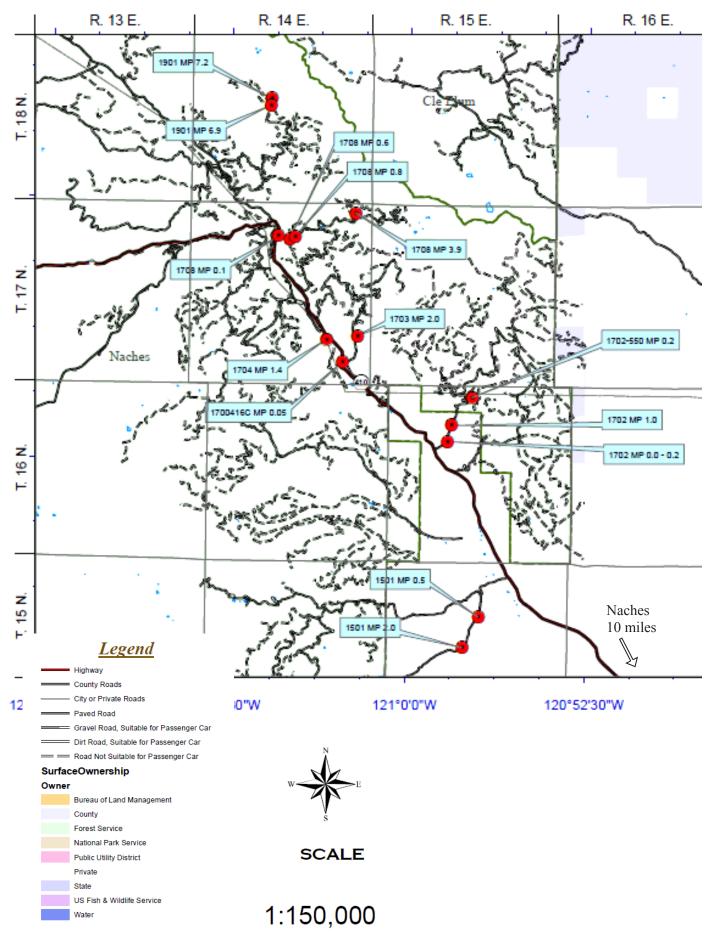
Project Locations

Washington State



Cle Elum Ranger District Project Locations





Naches Ranger District

Project Analysis Type: Categorical Exclusion, 36 CFR 220.6(d)(4)

This project is not required to have an Environmental Assessment but will still be subject to Appeal Regulations CFR 215. A Categorical Exclusion (CE) is a more streamlined method of analysis used in cases where the expected impact is limited. There will be an Official Comment Period and Decision Memo associated with this project.

Mile Post 6.9

Location

This damaged site is located in the Little Naches drainage on the Naches Ranger District. Forest System Road 1901 is also known as Quartz Creek Road. This site is located in Township 18N, Range 14E, Section 16 in Kittitas County. This area is currently closed at the FSR 1901 and 1916 junction. This is a maintenance level two road at the project site.



Flood Damage

During the May 2011 flood, flood water caused the road fill and slope to fail as it ran down and crossed the roadway. When the road began to erode, it caused a debris flow down the side of the slope. Approximately half of the existing road prism is missing at this location. The damaged area spans 46 feet.



Potential Repair

Option A: Repair the road in place. Excavate the existing shoulder slump area and install a 50 foot long wall with rock backfill upslope of the road. Re-vegetate the eroded slope and rebuild the aggregate road surface.

Option B: Close the road at the current junction with FSR 1916. Stabilize the slope to prevent further damage and sedimentation. This site is also in a potential restoration project area and the outcome of the road in its entirety will be analyzed in the future.

Naches Ranger District

Mile Post 7.2

Location

This damaged site is located in the Little Naches drainage on the Naches Ranger District. The FSR is also known as Quartz Creek Road. This site is located in Township 18N, Range 14E, Section 16 in Kittitas County. This area is currently closed at the FSR 1901 and 1916 junction. This is a maintenance level two road.





Flood Damage

During the 2011 flood event, the existing 60 inch culvert failed to properly transport water below the road. The stream deposited streambed material upstream of the crossing and into the culvert. With the stream flowing over the road, a large amount of roadway and road fill washed away.

Potential Repair

Option A: The crossing will be fixed and the road would be repaired to pre-existing single lane width.

Option B: Close the road at the junction with FSR 1916. Remove roadway and road fill that could continue to put sediment into the stream. Remove the culvert and stabilize the roadway away from the crossing.

Naches Ranger District

Project Analysis Type: Environmental Assessment

This project was first initiated in July of 2011 but has now been reinitiated to be included in the South-Zone flood repair projects. The previous proposed action should be disregarded.

Mile Post 0.5

Location

This damaged site is located in the Rattlesnake drainage. The FSR 1501 is also known as the Little Rattlesnake. This project is unique as the repair sites are within WA State Department of Natural Resources land, however, as a FSR it is maintained by the Naches Ranger District. This site is located in Township 15N, Range 15E, Section 10 and is in Yakima County. It is currently a maintenance level four road.





Flood Damage

Damage at this location occurred in 2009 and during the 2011 flood event. The stream began flowing into the road ditch and then across the road. From mile post 0.5 for 350 feet, the stream is now running across and on the road, eroding some of the asphalt pavement surface as well as the aggregate road base. From 350 to 800 feet beyond mile post 0.5, the stream is occupying and eroding the roadside ditch. It is continually eroding the road prism pavement, and road fill along the shoulder.

Potential Repair

Option A: Shift the roadway up and away from the channel at this location. Obliterate the old road section and restore a flood plain area with vegetation. The new road piece would be armored with rocks and large pieces of wood.

Option B: Decommission FSR 1501 from mile post 0.0 to 5.1. This would include obliterating the road, removing necessary road fill and asphalt that could wash out into the stream, and creating wood and rock structures to stabilize the area.

Naches Ranger District

Mile Post 2.0

Location

This damaged site is located in the Rattlesnake drainage. The FSR 1501 is also known as the Little Rattlesnake. This project is unique as the repair sites are within WA State Department of Natural Resources land, however, as a FSR it is maintained by the Naches Ranger District. This site is located in Township 15N, Range 15E, Section 16 and is in Yakima County. It is currently a maintenance level four road.





Flood Damage

During a high water event, the Little Rattlesnake stream activated a side channel that cut into the road prism and eroded approximately three feed of road surface. The damage to the road surface extends 26 feet and damage to the road embankment spans a total of 74 feet.

Potential Repair

Option A: Shift approximately 200 feet of roadway up and away from the channel. Remove the old road bed and restore a flood plain area with vegetation. The new road would be armored with rocks and large pieces of wood for stabilization.

Option B: Decommission FSR 1501 from mile post 0.0 to 5.1. This would include obliterating the road, removing necessary road fill and asphalt that could wash out into the stream, and creating wood and rock structures to stabilize the area.

Naches Ranger District

Project Analysis Type: Environmental Assessment Analysis Area

In order to properly address the cumulative and collective impacts of all of the repairs east of Highway 410, the planning team is analyzing multiple roads within one Environmental Assessment. There are six FSRs with a total of ten damaged sites:

- FSR 1700-416, mile post 0.1
- FSR 1702, mile post 0.0 and 1.0
- FSR 1702-550, mile post 0.2
- FSR 1703, mile post 2.0
- FSR 1704, miles post 1.3
- FSR 1708, mile post 0.0, 0.6, 0.8, and 3.9

Although the different damage sites may seem far apart, they are all near the Naches River or near a tributary of the Naches River.

Furthermore, these roads are inter-connected and provide access to the same system on the forest. For example, a closure in one area would impact travel on other roads near by. The analysis team will analyze all sites as one project to be able to better measure the total effects of all the potential repairs. Beyond effects to wildlife and aquatic species, the team must analyze the effects to recreation, vegetation management, fire management, cultural resources and other uses of this area.



In order to provide useful comments on this project, please be clear as to which FSR and which exact damage site you are commenting on. The analysis is one document but each site will have a separate repair selection.

Naches Ranger District

FSR 1700-416 Mile Post 0.1

Location

This damaged site is located in the Gold Creek drainage on the Naches Ranger District. The road is a connector road in a summer home tract. The site is in Township 17N, Range 14E, Section 36 within Yakima County. This road is classified as a maintenance level two road.





Flood Damage

In the 2011 flood, Gold Creek washed out a 30 foot wide section of the road at the location of two 48 inch culverts. The culverts did not fill with debris but were unable to handle the large amount of water flowing through. A significant amount of road, road fill, and road shoulder was washed downstream. There are summer homes on both sides of the washout and both tracts can be accessed by State Highway 410.

Potential Repair

Option A: Install an open bottom arch of approximately 15 feet in length to replace the two failed culverts. Remove the two culverts, install arch, reconstruct the road, and re-vegetate exposed soil around the area. Option B: Close the road at the crossing and remove approximately 100 feet of the road centered on the stream crossing. After removing the road and road fill, the stream bank would be stabilized and re-vegetated to prevent erosion.

Naches Ranger District

FSR 1702 Mile Post 0.0

Location

This damaged site is located along Rock Creek just off Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest land. Rock Creek Road (FSR 1702) is currently closed from mile post 1.0-1.1, but before the flood damage occurred it accessed both Forest and State land. The site is located in Township 16N, Range 15E, Section 17. This road is a maintenance level three road and managed by the Naches Ranger District.



Flood Damage

In May 2011, flood water overtopped multiple culverts, forcing the creek over and down the road. The water moved over the road and damaged the aggregate surface for approximately 2,450 feet. Debris was deposited on the road and in the roadside ditches.

Potential Repair

Option A: Clean and repair approximately 1,900 feet of roadway ditch, install 430 feet of rock armor protection on the creek bank, and clear the existing culverts. Road will be resurfaced for approximately 200 feet.

Option B: Stabilize the crossings and relinquish the road easement. Permanently close FSR 1702 beyond mile post 1.

Naches Ranger District

FSR 1702 Mile Post 1.0

Location

This damaged site is located along Rock Creek just off Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest land. Rock Creek Road (FSR 1702) is currently closed from mile post 1.0 to 1.1, and before the flood damage occurred it accessed both Forest and State land. The site are located in Township 16N, Range 15E, Section 8/9. This road is a maintenance level three road and managed by the Naches Ranger District.





Flood Damage

In the 2011 flood, high water flows eroded and damaged the road, road fill, and road shoulder. Rock creek narrows at this point in the valley with higher velocity flows. On the other side of the road is a steep slope.

Potential Repair

Option A: Build a precast concrete block wall to armor the road shoulder and prevent more erosion. Stabilize the area around the road.

Option B: Stabilize the road and bank and relinquish the road easement. Permanently close FSR 1702 beyond mile post 1.

Naches Ranger District

FSR 1702-550 Mile Post 0.2

Location

This damaged site is located on a spur road that connects with Rock Creek Road 1702. It is a maintenance level two road on the Naches Ranger District. The site is located in Township 16N, Range 15E, Section 4. The stream pictured is the righthand fork of Rock Creek.



Flood Damage

During the May 2011 flood, debris plugged the culvert and washed out 30 feet of road. There is currently no crossing and the 36 inch culvert is partially exposed.

Potential Repair

Option A: Clear and repair roadway and ditches. Install a 60 inch culvert to replace the 36 inch culvert. The crossing would be at the same location.

Option B: Reduce road to maintenance level 1 (closed) and stabilize the crossing. Remove the old culvert and road fill that could potentially be washed downstream.

Naches Ranger District

FSR 1703 Mile Post 2.0

Location

This damaged site is located along Gold Creek and is known as Gold Creek Road on the Naches Ranger District. This road is a loop road that connects with FSR 1705. The site is located in Township 17N, Range 14E, Section 25 in Kittitas County. This road previously was a snow mobile route in the winter and now is a maintenance level three road. The road is currently closed from mile post 0.0 to the FSR 1705 junction.





Flood Damage

Gold Creek washed out approximately 300 feet of road way. Above is the space where the road has washed away and where debris and boulders have filled in. During the 2011 flood event, the 60 inch culvert filled with rocks and debris and allowed the stream to overtop the road. The washout changed the course of the stream channel and created a large log jam that is causing river head-cutting.

Potential Repair

Option A: Rebuild the road in the same location allowing the stream to reclaim the old channel. The new crossing structure would be a 25 foot bottomless arch at the previous location of the culvert.

Option B: Reduce road to maintenance level 1 (closed) at crossing. Stabilize crossing and remove road and roadway fill that could erode further.

Naches Ranger District

FSR 1704 Mile Post 1.3

Location

This damaged site is located next to the main stem of the Naches River. Lower River Road (FSR 1704) and is classified as a maintenance level three road. The site is located in Township 17N, Range 14E, Section 26 in Yakima County. This is a connecter road between two summer home tracts and is currently open with a narrowed capacity.





Flood Damage

During the 2011 flood, high flows eroded the bank, road shoulder, and roadway. There is approximately 90 feet of damage resulting in a slumped road shoulder and roadway with a reduced width. At this site, the road is confined between the Naches River and a vertical rock face.

Potential Repair

Option A: Reconstruct eroded portion of road armoring river interface with extensive large rock and woody debris. Reconstruct road surface to minimize sedimentation into the river.

Option B: Close 1,500 to 2,000 feet of the road allowing for a turn around area on each side. Remove two thirds of the roadway to prevent additional erosion. Keep some surfacing to assist in stability.

Naches Ranger District

FSR 1708 Mile Post 0.0 Location

This damaged site is located along Milk Creek Road on the Naches Ranger District. Milk Creek Road (FSR 1708) intersects with State Highway 410 and has previously been the location of a snow park and groomed snowmobile route. The site is located in Township 17N, Range 14E, Section 9, in Kittitas County. This is a maintenance level three road and typically is heavily used. The road is currently closed from mile post 0.0 to the FSR 1708-590 junction.





Flood Damage

In 2011, the culvert at the Milk Creek crossing filled and allowed water to overflow onto the road and down towards Highway 410. Approximately 1,700 feet of road surfacing was damaged below the failed crossing. The 72 inch culvert is still in place.

Potential Repair

Option A: Pull out wood and debris that is partially blocking the pipe. Repair washed out portions of the road surface with aggregate surfacing.

Naches Ranger District

FSR 1708 Mile Post 0.6 Location

This damaged site is located along the heavily used Milk Creek Road on the Naches Ranger District. Milk Creek Road (FSR 1708) intersects with State Highway 410 and has previously been the location of a snow park and groomed snowmobile route. The site is located in Township 17N, Range 14E, Section 10, in Kittitas County. This is a maintenance level three road and is currently closed at mile post 0.0 to the FSR 1708-590 junction.





Flood Damage

During the 2011 flood, high flows eroded the road shoulder and bank. Portions of the road shoulder and road way were washed away narrowing the width of the road.

Potential Repair

Option A: Re-align the road to go up through the adjacent spur road. The spur road goes to a near-by rock pit and connects back to FSR 1708 at mile post 0.8. The re-aligned road would be made to level three maintenance road standards. The existing road would be decommissioned and the slope would be armored to prevent excess erosion.

Naches Ranger District

FSR 1708 Mile Post 0.8

Legal Description

This damaged site is located along the heavily used Milk Creek Road on the Naches Ranger District. Milk Creek Road (FSR 1708) intersects with State Highway 410 and has previously been the location of a snow park and groomed snowmobile route. The site is located in Township 17N, Range 14E, Section 10, in Kittitas County. This is a maintenance level three road and is currently closed at mile post 0.0 to the FSR 1708-590 junction.



Flood Damage

During the 2011 flood, high flows and debris eroded the road shoulder and bank. Portions of the road shoulder and road way were washed away narrowing the width of the road.

Potential Repair

Option A: Re-align the road to go up through the adjacent spur road. The spur road goes to a near-by rock pit and connects back to FSR 1708 at mile post 0.6. The re-aligned road would be made to level three maintenance road standards. The existing road would be decommissioned and the slope would be armored to prevent excess erosion.

Naches Ranger District

FSR 1708 Mile Post 3.9

Legal Description

This damaged site is located along the heavily used Milk Creek Road on the Naches Ranger District. Milk Creek Road (FSR 1708) intersects with State Highway 410 and provides access to several four wheel drive trails. The site is located in Township 17N, Range 14E, Section 1, in Kittitas County. This is a maintenance level three road and is currently closed at mile post 0.0 to the FSR 1708-590 junction.





Flood Damage

The creek crossing the road is a tributary to Milk Creek and is in an area with high sediment dispersal. During 2011, the culvert plugged with debris and created a new crossing down the ditch and then over the road.

Potential Repair

Option A: Remove the existing buried culvert and replace it with a larger culvert (approximately 60 inches) in the same location. Repair the road and road shoulder and return the stream to the pre-flood channel. Road and ditch would be armored for protection from future flood events.

Forest Service Road 4517-117

Cle Elum Ranger District

Project Analysis Type: Categorical Exclusion, 36 CFR 220.6(d)(4)

MPORTANT: This project is not required to have an Environmental Assessment and is not subject to Appeal

Regulations CFR 215. This means that the public will have one opportunity to comment on this project during the Scoping Period (see page 25). This type of analysis is generally shorter than an Environmental Assessment and will not require an Official Comment Period or Decision Memo.

Mile Post 1.6

Legal Description

This damaged site is located on Granite Road on the Cle Elum Ranger District. The road is a maintenance level two road and the project site is Township 19N, Range 14E, Section 4 in Kittitas County.





Flood Damage

The damaged crossing is at the location of a stream alluvial fan. During the 2011 flood, high flows and debris washed away the road around the existing culvert and deposited debris all over the site.

Potential Repair

Option A: Remove the existing culvert and make the crossing a natural-material ford. The ford would not be armored and would allow for traffic to drive through the site in low-flow or no-flow periods. The surface of the ford would be compacted. There would be a widened road area added before the ford to allow vehicles that did not want to cross to be able to turn around.

Cle Elum Ranger District

Project Analysis Type: Environmental Assessment

Mile Post 3.9

Legal Description

This damaged site is located along Taenem Road on the Cle Elum Ranger District. This is a maintenance level four road and is currently open with a narrowed driving width. This site is directly across from the Taenem Campground. The site is located in Township 19N, Range 16E, Section 28 in Kittitas County.



Flood Damage

During the 2011 flood, the gabion baskets and bank failed to protect the road and the road collapsed into the stream. Portions of the roadway and road shoulder are missing and the road width is narrowed. Currently, the stream is confined on the road and the campground side at this location.

Potential Repair

Option A: Replace failed gabion baskets with a pre-cast concrete block wall. Remove the berm between the stream and the campground, allowing the river to regain that portion of the floodplain. The historic structures of the campground will be protected, however, the picnic area and two campground locations will become part of the river flood plain. These sites are closest to the stream bank. The road would be repaired to pre-flood conditions.

Cle Elum Ranger District

Mile Post 4.4

Legal Description

This damaged site is located in along Taenem Road managed by the Cle Elum Ranger District. This is a maintenance level four road and is currently open with a narrowed driving width. The road is managed by the Forest Service but the site is located on Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife land. The site is located in Township 19N, Range 16E, Section 29 in Kittitas County.



Flood Damage

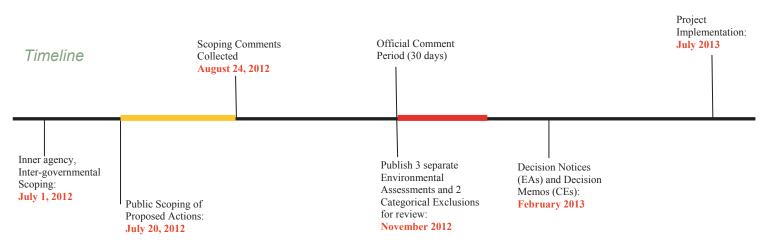
During the 2011 flood, the gabion baskets and bank failed to protect the road and the road collapsed into the stream. Portions of the roadway and road shoulder are missing and the road width is narrowed.

Potential Repair

Option A: Replace gabion baskets with a sheet pile wall. The wall would be made of connecting sheet piles that lock together and would be approximately 120 feet in length. Repair the road to pre-flood condition.



Getting Involved

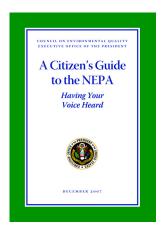


The planning processes for all five Flood Repair Projects are currently underway. The proposed actions presented here represent the planning team's initial proposal to address specific issues in each project area. Your personal knowledge of this area can help the team identify additional issues and opportunities not previously defined. In addition, your comments can provide the input necessary to develop alternative proposals that address these issues. Specific scoping comments will be most helpful to the planning team by **August 24th, 2012**. Comments received anytime during the analysis period will be accepted and give consideration and all comments will be part of the public record for this project. Please be aware that unless you request that this information not be disclosed and provide an adequate reason, it will become public record. To establish appeal rights, individuals or groups must make a substantive comment during the **'Official Comment Period'**. The Official Comment Period begins once legal notice is published in the Wenatchee World and the specific document has been made public for review. Please note— after scoping, each of the five projects may follow a different timeline.

Navigating the NEPA Process

A valuable reference for anyone wishing to get involved in the NEPA process is *A Citizen's Guide to the NEPA*, *Having Your Voice Heard* (Council on Environmental Quality). A copy of the guide can be found at:

http://ceq.hss.doe.gov/nepa/Citizens_Guide_Dec07.pdf



Some highlights:

- Citizens who want to raise issues with the agency should do so at the earliest possible state in the process. Agencies are much more likely to evaluate a new alternative or address a concern if it is raised in a timely manner.
- Comments may be the most important contribution from citizens. Accordingly, comments should be clear, concise, and relevant to the analysis of the proposed action. As a general rule, comments should be polite and respectful.
- Comments that are solution oriented and provide specific examples will be more effective than those that simply oppose the proposed projects.
- Remember that decision makers also receive other information and data such as operational and technical information related to implementing an action that they will have to consider when making a final decision.

Comments or Questions?

OR

Mail comments to:

Naches Ranger Station 10237 U.S. Highway 12

Naches, WA 98937

mdking02@fs.fed.us

Michelle King

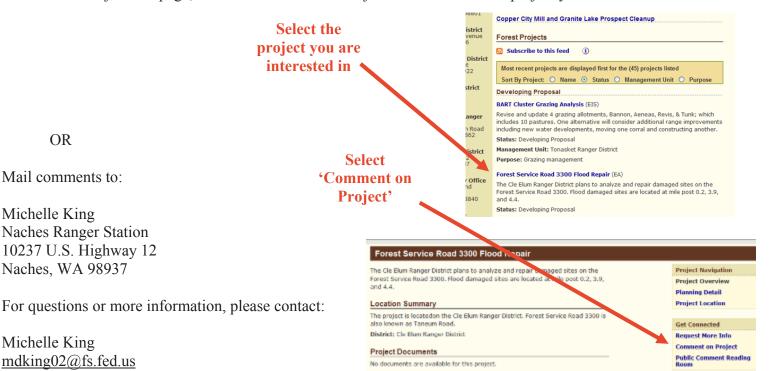
Michelle King

509-653-1420

The Naches and Cle Elum Ranger Districts are asking for questions, comments, and concerns on the presented proposed actions. Please send us your feedback by August 20, 2012. Visit the project websites to submit comments and find more information:

http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/okawen/landmanagement/projects

Once on the Project webpage, scroll down to 'Forest Projects' to search for the project you are interested in.



We look forward to hearing from you,

IRENE L. DAVIDSON Naches District Ranger

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JUDY HALLISEY Cle Elum District Ranger

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